## Message Text

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**ORIGIN EUR-12** 

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 SAM-01 OPIC-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 /069 R

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O R 241510Z FEB 76 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO USDOC WASH DC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 044049

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, PO

SUBJECT: TIMEX DISPUTE

REF: STATE 40401

- 1. TIMEX VP MARSCHING TELEPHONED DEPTOFF FEB 23 TO REPORT THAT LISBON TMX MANAGEMENT HAD BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN ATTEMPT TO MEET WITH LABOR MINISTER FEB. 19. MARSCHING SAID MANAGER HAD, THEREFORE, LEFT AT MINISTRY COPY OF COMMUNIQUE (TO BE PUBLICLY RELEASED FEB. 25) ANNOUNCING THAT 500 ADDITIONAL WORKERS HAD BEEN GIVEN NOTICE OF DISMISSAL.
- 2. MARSCHING SAID TMX MANAGER HAD SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED ADVANCE COPY OF LABOR MIHISTRY COMMINQUE EVIDENTLY PRE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARED IN ANSWER TO TMX ANNOUNCEMENT AND APPARENTLY

WRITTEN FOR SIMULTANEOUS RELEASE. ACCORDING TO MARSCHING, AMBIGUOUS MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE NOTES THAT ANY LAYOFF OF WORKERS MUST PROCEED ,ACCORDING TO PORTUGUESE LAWS AND THAT FURTHER LAYOFF THREATS (PRESUMABLY REFERRING TO 500 WORKERS) "WOULD ACCOMPLISH NOTHING". COMMUNIQUE ALSO SAYS THAT ANY DECISION ON MANAGEMENT'S ALTERNATIVE TO ADDITIONAL DISMISSAL -- 60 PERCENT WORK SCHEDULE -- COULD BE REACHED ONLY BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

3. MARSCHING REPEATED FIRM'S BELIEF (REFTEL) THAT IT HAD ACTED IN GOOD FAITH THROUGHOUT DISPUTE AND ADDED HE WAS DISAPPOINTED L"BOR MINISTRY HAD APPARENTLY REFUSED TO CONTINUE DIRECT TALKS WITH TMX MANAGEMENT. HE HOPED EMBASSY MIGHT ASSIST IN EITHER (A) ARRANGING URGENT MEETING BETWEEN TMX AND LABOR MINISTER OR (B) URGING COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO APPROVE 60 PERCENT WORK SCHEDULE.

IN VIEW OF NORWEGIAN O'NERSHIP OF TMX, DEPTOFF MADE NO COMMITMENT BUT AGREED TO INFORM EMBASSY OF ABOVE. INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

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